10/620,109
Amendment and Response to Office Action

Atty. Docket No. 200310882-1
April 20, 2007

Remarks

Claims 1-19 remain pending. Claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 12, 17, and 19 are hereby amended. No new matter is being added.

Claim Objections

Claim 17 was objected to because the term "where" should be changed to -- wherein--. Applicant has amended claim 17 accordingly. Applicant respectfully submits that this objection is now overcome.

Claim Rejections--Section 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under Section 112, second paragraph, for lack of antecedent basis. In accordance with Examiner's comments, applicant hereby amends claims 1, 7 and 8 so as to provide antecedent basis for the term "the user VLAN tag." Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is now overcome.

Claim Rejections--Section 102

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17 and 19 were rejected under Section 102 as being anticipated by Srikanth. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection with respect to the claims as they are now amended.

Amended claim 1 now recites as follows.

1. A method of processing a packet sent to a provider network, the method comprising:

receiving the packet via a user port of an edge switch of the network, wherein the user port is an input port of the edge switch;

determining forwarding and routing by the edge switch based on a user VLAN identifier (VID) for a user VLAN tag for the packet; and

> **double VLAN tagging by inserting a provider VLAN tag,** including a
> provider VID, into the packet at a provider port of the edge switch
> prior to transmission of the packet via the provider port, wherein the
> provider port is an output port of the edge switch.

(Emphasis added.)

As shown above, claim 1 now recites "**double** VLAN tagging" in which "a **provider** VLAN tag" is inserted, in addition to "a **user** VLAN tag for the packet." As further recited in claim 1, "the user port is an **input** port of the edge switch," and "the provider port is an **output** port of the edge switch."

Applicant respectfully submits that Srikanth does not teach such "**double** VLAN tagging" in which "a provider VLAN tag" is inserted, in addition to "a user VLAN tag for the packet." Srikanth teaches merely a single VLAN tag. For example, box 420 in FIG. 4 of Srikanth shows the insertion of such a single VLAN tag. This is described in column 4, line 39 through column 5, line 12 of Srikanth.

Moreover, in addition to requiring both provider and user VLAN tags, claim 1 further requires "**determining forwarding and routing by the edge switch**" to be "**based on a user VLAN identifier (VID) of a user VLAN tag for the packet.**" In other words, claim 1 requires that the edge switch to forward and route based on the "buried" user tag, rather than the provider tag. This forwarding and routing based on the "buried" user tag contrasts with the conventional technique, discussed starting on page 3 of the present application, wherein forwarding and routing by the edge switch is based on the provider tag.

Therefore, for at least the above-discussed reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is now overcome this rejection.

Claims 3, 5-7, and 9 depend from claim 1. Hence, applicant respectfully submits that claims 3, 5-7, and 9 also overcome this rejection for at least the same reasons discussed above in relation to claim 1.

Claim 11 is amended similarly to claim 1. For example, claim 11 now recites that "the transmitted packet has **at least two VLAN tags**." (Emphasis added.) Claim 11 also recites "**determining forwarding and routing based on a user**

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VLAN identifier (VID) of a user VLAN tag for the packet." (Emphasis added.) Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 also overcomes this rejection for at least the same reasons discussed above in relation to claim 1.

Claim 12 is amended similarly to claim 1. For example, claim 12 now recites that "the transmitted packet has **at least two VLAN tags** therein." (Emphasis added.) Claim 12 also recites "**routing and forwarding for the packet based on a user VID** of a user VLAN tag." (Emphasis added.) Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claim 12 also overcomes this rejection for at least the same reasons discussed above in relation to claim 1.

Claim 14 depends from claim 12. Hence, applicant respectfully submits that claim 14 also overcomes this rejection for at least the same reasons discussed above in relation to claim 12.

Claim 16, as originally presented, recites "using **double Q tagging** to create a tunnel... wherein a **user-expected service level is provided** in relation to traffic flowing through the tunnel." (Emphasis added.) Therefore, for similar reasons as discussed above in relation to claim 1, claim 16 also overcomes this rejection.

Claim 19 is amended similarly to claim 1. For example, claim 19 now recites that "the transmitted packet has **at least two VLAN tags** therein." (Emphasis added.) Claim 19 also recites "determining **forwarding and routing based on a user VLAN identifier (VID)** of a user VLAN tag for the packet." (Emphasis added.) Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claim 19 also overcomes this rejection for at least the same reasons discussed above in relation to claim 1.

Claim Rejections--Section 103

Claims 2, 8, 10, 13, 15 and 18 were rejected under Section 103 as being unpatentable over Srikanth in view of Dobbins. Claim 4 was rejected under Section 103 as being unpatentable over Srikanth in view of Kadambi. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections with respect to the claims as they are now amended.

Claims 2, 4, 8, 10, 13, 15 and 18 are dependent claims. As discussed above, independent claims 1, 11, 12, and 16 are now patentably distinguished over Srikanth. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to the independent

claims, these dependent claims are now also patentably distinguished over combinations based on Srikanth.

Conclusion

For the above-discussed reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims now overcome the objections and rejections from the latest office action. Favorable action is respectfully requested.
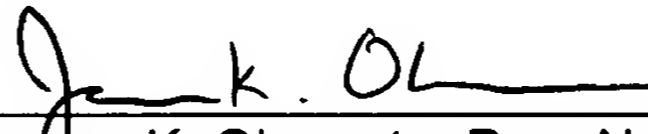
The Examiner is also invited to call the below-referenced attorney to discuss this case.
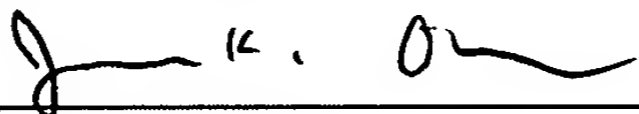
Respectfully Submitted,

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